

AGN. NO. 23 - A

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

OCTOBER 28, 2014

**NURSING HOME INSPECTION PROGRAM**

Recently the Los Angeles Daily News printed a follow up article on the inspection of nursing homes by the Department of Public Health's Facility Inspection Division. This article identified several cases involving patient deaths that continue to raise questions regarding the Facility Inspection Division's corrective action process and practices for sanctioning serious nursing home violations.

The cases identified were initially determined to be "AA" citations, which arise when a violation directly causes a patient death. These cases subsequently were downgraded to a lesser violation. When questioned, Public Health stated the citations were appropriate in all three deaths described in the news story, even though there was no documented justification for the decisions that were made to reduce the citations.

The cases occurred several years ago. When asked by the reporter about the lack of documentation supporting these decisions, Public Health stated that earlier this year they had begun using a form developed with the State Department of Public Health to explain its approval or changes to such recommendations.

It is important that Public Health has taken appropriate steps to assure the public and the Board that these seemingly arbitrary changes can no longer occur and that they have taken actions to ensure the integrity of the investigation and citation process.

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**MOTION**

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors Board of Supervisors instruct the Acting Director of Public Health to include in the November update on the nursing home inspection program the following:

1. The percent of initial citations that either are upgraded or downgraded upon review by Division managers prior to issuance;
2. A detailed description of the newly established procedure for review and final approval of recommended nursing home citations within the Health Facilities Inspection Division; and
3. The training provided to Health Facilities Inspection Division staff and the percentage of staff that have completed this training.

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